

(323) 881-2401

July 7, 2004

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

FOURTH OF JULY 2004 ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes actions that were taken by this Department to mitigate the anticipated additional emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2004 holiday. Also included is a summary of fireworks-related emergency responses, property losses, and the number of injuries.

OPERATIONS – EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The Department received 1,818 telephone calls and dispatched 1,014 incidents. The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4, to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2004.

For comparison, the 2003 statistics have also been included:

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	2003	2004
Structures	3	9
Miscellaneous	8	14
Grass/Brush Fires	15	10
Injuries	3	1
Total	29	34

DOLLAR/ACREAGE LOSS/INJURIES	2003	2004
Structures/Contents	\$116,000	\$56,800
Miscellaneous Property	\$0	\$2,125
Grass/Brush	25.79 Acres	4.97 Acres
Total	\$116,000	\$58,925

AUGMENTED STAFFING

The following resources were staffed by this Department on July 4, 2004:

- The Information Management Division (IMD) provided Command and Control with on-site CAD support staff from July 3 through the early morning of July 5 and provided incident/call volume reports for our Public Information Office (PIO).
- IMD provided on-call technical support staff for emergency PC/communications repairs for the entire weekend.
- Incident Management Teams 2A and 2B were on duty during the holiday weekend.
- Staffed water tenders for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed all unstaffed patrols for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 87 at Fire Station 87 for 24 hours (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed Helitender 7 at Heavy Equipment for 12 hours (1000 to 2200 hours).
- Staffed an additional fireship at Barton Heliport for 12 hours (0900 to 2100 hours).
- Staffed four dozers at Fire Stations 64, 124, and 129, (1000 to 2200 hours) and heavy equipment (0800 to 0800 hours).
- Staffed 20 ground crews and 9 superintendents.

LIFEGUARD DIVISION

- Assigned one additional paramedic to the Catalina Isthmus on July 3, 4, and 5.
- All sections provided extended staffing hours on rescue boats and for beach patrol on July 4 and permitted firework display program coverage.
- Southern Section Headquarters staffed with a captain after-hours.
- Staffed Dive Team #1 on July 4th and 5th.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Special emphasis was placed once again on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display.

The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2004:

- Conducted the Thirteenth Annual “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest” with the theme of “*Attend a Professional Fireworks Display.*” All elementary schools within Los Angeles County were invited to participate and over 1,000 posters were submitted.
- A “Fireworks Safety and Junior Fire Chief for a Day” press conference was held on June 30, 2004 to announce the six winners for the “Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest.” Award prizes were given to each winner.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations on the potential dangers of fireworks.
- On June 29, 2004, the Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, 888-654-FIRE, was placed in operation to provide information in English and Spanish on the location of professional fireworks shows.
- On June 26, 2004, Public Affairs posted public safety information regarding the Fourth of July on the web site www.lacofd.org. The web site included a list for the public of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County. Other information included was a list of which cities in Los Angeles County allowed *Safe and Sane* fireworks and general Fourth of July safety tips.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved the permits and supervised 47 public fireworks displays with a Fire Safety Officer at each site indicated.
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- The Arson/Fire Investigation Unit assisted several law and fire agencies in the arrest of three individuals and the confiscation of approximately 5,000 pounds of illegal fireworks.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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CONCLUSION

The number of fireworks-related incidents increased by four. The dollar loss was down from \$116,000 in 2003 to \$58,925 in 2004. Injuries decreased by two. The Department will be forwarding to your Honorable Board a more comprehensive report during the month of August that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2004. This 30-day report is a truer reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

PMF:cm

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